

19,000 officers and 178,000 enlisted men. American industry had turned out 11,754 aircraft.

It took World War II to prove the importance of air power to the defense of our Nation. In 1920, the Army Reorganization Act made the Air Service a combatant arm of the Army. The Air Corps Act of 1926 adopted the name of the Army Air Corps. Two years after Hitler launched World War II by invading Poland, the War Department created the Army Air Forces as its aviation element. By the last year of the war, the quantity and quality of Army Air Forces aircraft and airman dominated the skies over both Germany and Japan, all but paralyzing their war economies.

Based on the Army Air Force's wartime achievements and future potential, the U.S. Air Force won its independence. The National Security Act of 1947 created the U.S. Air Force as a separate branch of the armed services. This secured the Air Force's full partnership with the Army, Navy, and the Marine Corps. The creation of the Air Force signaled America's commitment to the dominance of the skies. And I am proud to report that commitment is being honored today in skies all around the world.

From that first military flight in 1908, what has come from now a golden legacy is moving toward a boundless future. This future knows no limits, as it moves toward new horizons. As the 20th century has worn on, our military focus has increasingly shifted into a third dimension—the vertical. This is the realm of air and space forces. When we dominate the third dimension we control both the horizontal and vertical battlefield. In conflict, superiority is not enough: air and space dominance must be our objective. It is with these challenges in mind, that the Air Force commemorates its 50th anniversary looking firmly to the future while remembering the lessons and achievements of the past. In this spirit, we honor the sacrifices and contributions the brave men and women of the Air Force have made.

In commemoration of this anniversary, the Air Force has been busy indeed. The Air Force launched several events to celebrate its first 50 years on September 18, highlighted by the Air Forces Annual Convention in Washington. The U.S. Postal Service issued the first Air Force stamp. That same day, a wreath was placed at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. And the Air Force proudly dedicated its site of the Air Force Memorial at Arlington while the President led a cake cutting ceremony at the Pentagon. In communities all over this great Nation, local Air Force associations sponsored road races, participated in school festivals, and other community activities. I am proud to say that I and many of my fellow members of the Congress participated in the many events to help celebrate this momentous anniversary. It is my honor to further recognize the U.S. Air Force, and on behalf of the Congressional Air Power Caucus and the U.S. Congress, I wish the Air Force God's speed as it presses on toward its boundless future.

CONGRATULATING LT. GEN. RICHARD G. GRAVES (RETIRED) ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE GENERAL DYNAMICS CORP.

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the second retirement of Lt. Gen. Richard G. Graves, a distinguished soldier who as a businessman continued to promote the interests of the Army and of the United States.

Lt. Gen. Graves is departing from General Dynamics Corp. where he has served as vice president of the General Dynamics Land Systems Division, first in Saudi Arabia and recently in Washington, DC. He will now return to his adopted home, the State of Texas.

While in Saudi Arabia, he was responsible for the fielding of over 300 United States made M1A2 tanks to the Royal Saudi Land Forces. Complex and difficult in itself, this accomplishment has had two major benefits to the United States of America.

First, these tanks and their Saudi crews now are part of the foundation of military strength that allows the Government of Saudi Arabia to stand against the possibility of renewed aggression in the Middle East. Second, the efficient and positive way in which this critical task was done strengthened the relationship of trust and confidence the United States has with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Lt. Gen. Graves was born and raised in Indiana. Following graduation from West Point in 1958, he established a reputation as a highly proficient and able armor officer, culminating in command of the U.S. Army's Contingency Corps, III U.S. Corp. at Fort. Hood, TX, from 1988 to 1991.

During his military career, he sought out difficult assignments here and abroad and executed them in an outstanding manner. He was the commander of an Armored Cavalry Squadron during the Vietnam war and earned the Silver Star and several other decorations for valor. During the latter days of the cold war, he served in armored units here and in Germany as a Brigade Commander, Corps Operations Officer, Division Chief of Staff, Corps Chief of Staff, Assistant Division Commander, and Division Commanding General. He also served on the Staffs of Forces Command and the Department of the Army. In these roles, he was one of the architects of the rebuilding of the American Army from the depths of the post-Vietnam weakness to the heights of the competence displayed in the Desert Storm victory.

Members, please join me in congratulating Lt. Gen. Richard G. Graves (retired). He has earned the praise and thanks of the American people for his many contributions as a soldier and patriot.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
BIBLE WEEK

HON. STEVE LARGENT

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, the Laymen's National Bible Association has bestowed upon

me the honor of congressional cochair for National Bible Week. It is, therefore, with respect and pleasure that I announce November 23–30 as National Bible Week. I encourage my colleagues in the House and the Senate, as well as the American people to observe National Bible Week through the study of God's word.

The Bible has been a source of moral guidance throughout world history, but America's reliance upon the Bible has been particularly profound. The American public and the U.S. Government have long used Biblical principles to shepherd progress. For that reason, National Bible Week has several goals. It is an opportunity for individuals to expand their knowledge of the Bible, reaffirm commitment to its principles, and introduce its values into the lives of others. I also encourage my colleagues in Congress to recognize and explore Scripture's treasures upon which our great Nation depends. I urge everyone to use National Bible Week to understand God's message in Psalm 119:105. It says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." National Bible Week enables us the occasion to commit ourselves to Biblical guidance.

Americans have long had a commitment to the Bible. Indeed, the greatest success of many new world colonists was to break free of religious intolerance in England and create a community firmly established on an observance of Biblical principles. Perhaps no group better exemplified the Reformation in early America than the Puritans of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Their hope of religious freedom led them to leave the hypocrisy of England in search of a closer connection to God's word. It was aboard the flagship *Arbella*, just before landing in Massachusetts Bay, that John Winthrop issued his sermon, "A Model of Christian Charity." In his sermon he said, "We must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill; the eyes of all people are upon us." His words explained the purpose of the Puritans, a people who would develop a close relationship with God's Word and lead by example.

Years later, the 13 colonies waged the Revolutionary War against the English to secure their religious freedoms. Their triumph was a cleansing of intolerance in the new frontier. After the war, revolutionary America set out to champion the values for which they fought into a national law. This challenge was met with the Constitution, a unique document heavily influenced by the laws of God in the Bible. James Madison spoke of the Bible's influence on the Constitution. He said, "the future and success of America is not in this Constitution, but in the laws of God upon which this Constitution is founded."

Psalm 119:2 says, "Blessed are they who keep to His statutes and seek Him with all their heart." This verse is especially relevant for today's national leaders. My colleagues and I need to seek personal guidance from the Bible. As Noah Webster said, "The Bible must be considered as the great source of all truth by which men are to be guided in government. * * *" My hope for National Bible Week is that it will serve notice to our U.S. Congress, that we may begin to reacquire our actions, words, and politics with Biblical example to serve our citizens better.

All Americans should take notice that "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. (II Timothy 3:16)" Society puts

many burdens on family values. National Bible Week is an opportunity for families to reaffirm their unity through study of the Bible, or to acquaint children to the Bible for the first time. Remember the example of John Quincy Adams who said, "So great is my veneration for the Bible, and so strong my belief, that when duly read and meditated on, it is of all good books in the world, that which contributes most to make men good, wise, and happy—that the earlier my children begin to read it, the more steadily they pursue the practice of reading it throughout their lives, the more lively and confident will be my hopes that they will prove useful citizens to their country, respectable members of society, and a real blessing to their parents." Utilize National Bible Week to introduce its stories and parables to your children so that they may later in life rely upon the Bible.

Finally, how appropriate that National Bible Week falls in the same week as Thanksgiving, a holiday that celebrates the Founders of our Nation, founding principles, and all of our blessings. On Thanksgiving we can all thank our Nation's Founders for remaining true to Biblical principles and incorporating them into law. More importantly, National Bible Week enables all Americans to enhance the celebrations of Thanksgiving through a renewed and heightened focus on the study and mediation of the Bible.

HONORING BAYTOWN'S PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Darrell Davis, Keith Dougherty, and Mike Jones of Baytown, TX, upon their selection as Baytown Fire Fighter, Police Officer, and Paramedic of the Year respectively. They will be the guests of honor at Baytown's fifth annual Public Safety Recognition Dinner on November 17, 1997, and they are each certainly deserving of this honor.

Darrell Davis, the 1997 Baytown Fire Fighter of the Year, has spent his career helping others. Lieutenant Davis received his basic fire fighter training at Texas A & M University, where he graduated at the top of his class. He joined the Baytown Fire Department in November 1974, and quickly rose through its ranks. He achieved the rank of lieutenant in 1981 and moved into the fire marshal's office the next year. Lieutenant Davis also served as chief of the Highlands Fire Department and was instrumental in obtaining a \$200,000 grant for the city to purchase new equipment. He was also one of the first two paramedics trained for duty in East Harris County.

Darrell Davis' priorities have included the acquisition of vital fire prevention equipment for the Baytown area and teaching children fire safety skills. He spearheaded the drive to establish the Baytown Life Safety Foundation, which he now chairs, and helped develop the fire safety house, a specially built house for children to teach them the proper techniques to survive a fire. He is also active in Cub Scouts, teaching kids, including his son Aaron, the do's and don'ts of fire safety. Lieutenant Davis is making Baytown a better and safer place for all its citizens.

Keith Dougherty, the Police Officer of the Year, also has a long history of serving the people of Baytown. Officer Dougherty came to Baytown in 1982 from St. Louis, MO, where he served as a police officer for one year following pursuit of his masters degree at Webster University. During his tenure in Baytown, he has served in many capacities within the police force, including the patrol division, the crime prevention unit, the training division, and, since January 1993, as a detective. Officer Dougherty currently serves as a police instructor, certified crime prevention specialist, SWAT team sniper, and DARE officer, and he is a criminal justice instructor at Lee College in Baytown. His outstanding efforts have won him three commendations for outstanding performance and the admiration of his peers and all of Baytown.

This year's Paramedic of the Year, Mike Jones, joined the Baytown Health Department's Emergency Medical Services team in 1996, and he has quickly earned the respect and praise of the entire community. Paramedic Jones has served as a paramedic for the past 8 years and is currently training future paramedics who will join him in providing a high level of emergency response and care to the people of Baytown. They could not be learning from a finer example. In addition to his expertise in patient care issues, Paramedic Jones has obtained his associate degree in emergency medical services and criminal justice from Lee College in Baytown. In a short period of time, Mike Jones has shown a tremendous commitment that is improving emergency response and saving lives in Baytown.

Public safety officers often put their own safety and even their own lives at risk for the sake of their fellow citizens. They serve us during some of the most difficult times of our lives, when we are facing the stress of crimes, fires, or medical emergencies. They are certainly deserving of our gratitude and honor. So I am honored to join in this tribute to Darrell Davis, Keith Dougherty, and Mike Jones and to all who serve our community alongside them. They are examples for all of us.

CALIFORNIA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN POLICY EXTENSION ACT OF 1997

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the California Advisory Council on Indian Policy Extension Act of 1997. This bill will extend by 2 years the life of the California Advisory Council on Indian Policy, which was created by legislation I sponsored in the 102d Congress.

The council was created to specifically provide Congress with a report setting forth recommendations for remedial measures to address the special problems facing California Indians and Indian tribes. The problems include the status of California's terminated and unrecognized tribes, economic self-sufficiency, and health and educational needs.

The council has fulfilled its task and provided Congress with a comprehensive report and set of recommendations. These recommendations focus on land consolidation,

restoration of tribes, provision of health, educational, and social services, and responsibility to urban Indians.

Because the council has acquired considerable expertise on these and other issues during its 4-year existence, it seemed to me that their knowledge should not go to waste. My bill would extend the existence of the council for another 2 years so that the council will be able to guide Congress in the implementation of the report's recommendations.

My bill directs the council to consult and work with Congress, the Secretaries of the Interior and Health and Human Services, the California Indian tribes, and the State in expediting the implementation of the recommendations contained in the council's 1997 report. I want to be clear that the council is to consult with all of the Indian tribes in the State and my bill makes it clear that the council is to provide timely information to the tribes regarding their actions.

But I believe that the knowledge and wisdom that the council has gained from its 4-year existence is simply too valuable to cost aside. Thus, I am pleased to introduce this measure so that we can continue to benefit from their experience as we begin the process of reviewing and implementing the recommendations in their report.

TRIBUTE TO WHITKO ART STUDENTS

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, a vital part of children's development is learning to distinguish themselves as individuals. Artistic expression gives children this opportunity. Regardless of the discipline, art offers a unique avenue for creativity.

Today, Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize a group of students from my district who have excelled in the arts and earned international acclaim for their creativity. The Whitko High School Art Department recently competed in the 28th exhibition of World Student Children's Art in the Republic of China. Whitko, of South Whitley, IN, was one of only 11 schools to represent the United States in the exhibition. Three of the Whitko students gained personal recognition for their achievements. Kathleen Dombek, Rany Kilbourne, and Jason Slone all received medals in a competition representing 51 nations around the world.

I am proud to represent a group of such students. They have set an example worthy of our praise. I urge my colleagues to recognize the committee and hard work of these young people and to join me in congratulating them on their accomplishment.

GALA OPENING OF GINNIE'S HOUSE

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, we often hear that every dark cloud has a silver lining.